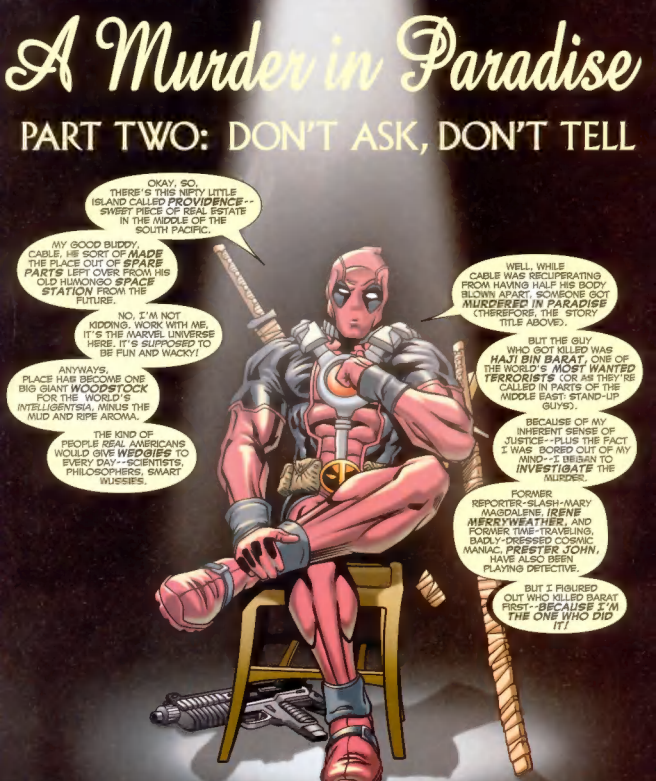
A Murder in Paradise

PART TWO: DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL


OKAY, SO, THERE'S THIS NIFTY LITTLE ISLAND CALLED PROVIDENCE--SWEET PIECE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC.
MY GOOD BUDDY, CABLE, HIS SORT OF MADE THE PLACE OUT OF SPARE PARTS LEFT OVER FROM HIS OLD HUMONGO SPACE STATION FROM THE FUTURE.
NO, I'M NOT KIDDING. WORK WITH ME, IT'S THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HERE. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN AND WACKY!
ANYWAYS, PLACE HAS BECOME ONE BIG GIANT WOODSTOCK FOR THE WORLD'S INTELLIGENTSIA, MINUS THE MUD AND RIPE AROMA.
THE KIND OF PEOPLE REAL AMERICANS WOULD GIVE WEDGIES TO EVERY DAY--SCIENTISTS, PHILOSOPHERS, SMART WUSSIES.
WELL, WHILE CABLE WAS RECUPERATING FROM HAVING HALF HIS BODY BLOWN APART, SOMEONE GOT MURDERED IN PARADISE (THEREFORE, THE STORY TITLE ABOVE).
BUT THE GUY WHO GOT KILLED WAS HAJI BIN BARAT, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED TERRORISTS (OR AS THEY'RE CALLED IN PARTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: STAND-UP GUYS).
BECAUSE OF MY INHERENT SENSE OF JUSTICE--PLUS THE FACT I WAS BORED OUT OF MY MIND--I BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE THE MURDER.
FORMER REPORTER-SLASH-MARY MAGDALENE, IRENE MERRYWEATHER, AND FORMER TIME-TRAVELING, BADLY-DRESSED COSMIC MANIAC, PRESTER JOHN, HAVE ALSO BEEN PLAYING DETECTIVE.
BUT I FIGURED OUT WHO KILLED BARAT FIRST--BECAUSE I'M THE ONE WHO DID IT!

FABIAN NICIEZA — WRITER | PATRICK ZIRCHER — PENCILER | UDON'S M3TH — INKER | GOTHAM — COLORIST | CORY PETIT — LETTERS

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DEADPOOL CREATED BY ROB LIEFELD AND FABIAN NICIEZA

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THEN SO SHALL IT BE! YOU PLACE YOUR OWN LIFE IN JEOPARDY!
I'LL TAKE SLICED SAXONS FOR EIGHT HUNDRED, ALEX...
SFAXX
--SEMINAR ON URBAN PLANNING?
--HOPED WE'D AVOID SUCH PROCLIVITIES FOR POPULATION DENSITY...
--AN AGRARIAN CULTURE COULD HAVE SURVIVED--
IS THAT VEGETABLE STEW AGAIN?
I HATE FORCE FIELDS.

WHOOPS-- HEY THERE, TIGER LILY. DIDN'T MEAN TO BOWL YOU OVER.
I GET THE WHOLE STEREOTYPICAL NATIVE LOOK--YOU'RE PROTESTING FOR INDIAN RIGHTS OR SOMETHING.
TOTALLY ON YOUR SIDE. JUST LAST MONTH, I DROPPED COIN IN FIVE INDIAN CASINOS.
OR, IF YOU WANT, I GOT DANCES WITH WOLVES ON LASERDISC...
WILSON!
OKAY. COUPLE THINGS-- WHEN THE MASK IS ON, IT'S DEADPOOL. GOT A WHOLE CLARK KENT MYSTIQUE GOING ON.
SECOND OF ALL, TAKE IT OUTSIDE SO WE DON'T CRACK ANY EGGHEADS. ONE OF 'EM MIGHT ACTUALLY FIND A CURE FOR TUCKER CARLSON SOMEDAY.
THIRD OF ALL, DO NOT INTERRUPT WHILE I'M GOING GOOD WITH AN INDIAN CHICK--
--THAT'S HOTTER THAN THE ONE KIRK BAGGED ON STAR TREK!
IT'S ESCALATING, JOHANN. MY FAULT FOR LETTING MEDIEVAL BE OUR FIRST OPTION.
HMM. NOW SHOULD WE CALL CABLE?
I'M PRETTY SURE...

DEAR DEADPOOL

Welcome back, gang! Guess what time it is? INTERNATIONAL LETTERS time! We got fans of *C&DP* all over the world! Understandable, since I love the French and am indifferent to national boundaries when kicking @$$!

We haven't gone to Kuala Lumpur. I wanna go there, mostly 'cause I like saying it. Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur. Okay, on with the page…

To the Mighty Powers That Be (note the insertion of "Mighty" in the hope that sucking up will actually help keep this book alive):

Just wanted you to know how much I'm enjoying *C&DP*. It's always refreshing to see two refugees from the bad old '90s find a place to shine here in flat naughty oughts.

Nicieza and Zircher are doing a great job, on-time month after month, in delivering a story that's beautiful to look at and can make you sad a page after laughing hysterically. In fact, I've started buying an extra copy each month at my local shop so I can have the owner just give it to someone who isn't already reading it.

Who loves ya, baby?

Keep up the great work,

Rick Jones (yes, really); U.S.A.

No way! Rick Jones! I got all your albums. And I loved you in the Kree/Skrull war. As for "Who loves ya, baby?"--what's with Ving Rhames as Kojak? That's just kinda outside the box, ain't it?

Anyway, Fabian was gonna ask me to rag on you for the 90's dig, since all those bad comics he wrote back then basically paid his kids' college tuition before they were even born, but when you told us you're buying an extra copy to give away, well, abuse forestalled. FOR NOW.

Hey there Nicole, and everyone else working on *C&DP*.

Just thought I'd write in to say great job on the series so far, I've been reading from issue 1 and think it's the best Marvel title out there!

It's great to see Cable's powers return to a normal level, and I'm really looking forward to seeing how this is handled, but I'm kinda worried about the problems raised in *X-Force* #61 (I don't want to spoil it for anyone who hasn't read it.) is this going to be addressed in *C&DP* at any point, and if so when, because I know *C&DP* was a few weeks behind continuity to begin with.

Thanks a bunch, keep up the good work,

Chris Morley, UK

No, we don't plan to address Cable's disappearance in this book. Hopefully ever, 'cause basically that means the book is all mine! Now if I can just kill Mercwether--and that Prester John torpedo Patrick likes drawing so much… and Weasel… and…

Dear *C&DP* Crew,

Some comics have too much emphasis on lots of text and dialogue, and some others have lots of art and meager amounts of text to go with it. *C&DP* is a fantastically well-crafted title because it manages to get lots of both into every issue.

It has been wonderful to watch Cable's character become so complex and powerful at the same time, very few incredibly powerful characters can be this interesting these days. I also love how Cable and Deadpool interact with the wider Marvel Universe beyond the X-Men titles. The abundance of interesting supporting characters makes Cable and Deadpool's stories more surprising and realistic because of their sheer scale.

Lastly, I have a few questions…

1) How was it possible for Cable to get Deadpool's non-mutant healing factor?

2) How did Agent X get his scars back after his own series ended?

3) When Cable or Deadpool teleport, how is the destination determined?

4) How did A.I.M. get a Phalanx baby?

5) Will there be more female characters apart from Irene and Domino explored in this title in the near future?

Thank you all for a fantastic story so far, I can't wait for more.

Chris Day, Australia

Okay, Chris, lighten up on those Fosters, our stories ain't "realistic," they're ridiculous. We're comic book characters for crying out loud!

Ooh, numbered questions! I love those:

1)We merged on a very intimate level--not that there's anything wrong with that. When I was all melted like a puddle of Ensure, Nate sort of sucked me into his body and then he sort of upchucked me out. That's all the detailed science we need to know.

2)He covered them back on to his face himself because he scores more chicks with the scars.

3)Beats me. How do you do it when you teleport?

4)Same way A.I.M. gets everything. They found it. They're like the vultures of the Marvel Universe. Except with buckets on their heads. Which are actually kinda cool.

5)I would like to explore many more female characters in this book. During our upcoming issues, I'll be trying to explore Siryn. I've also put in a request to explore Sue Richards, Wasp, She-Hulk, the older chick from Power Pack who all of a sudden looks like Lindsay Lohan and Nicole Wiley, our editor.

Hey my name's Marc and I live in France..you know the country where you can't pay Deadpool enough to go to while our countries are at war! heh..we're not? (dixit: Cable&Deadpool#1) Your storyline and art are awesome!!! and I hope Cable & Deadpool will continue for a very very very very long time..I love what you are doing on Cable & Deadpool you make me dream..thanks!!

Marc. France

A member of this ONE WORLD CHURCH!

"you are one for yourself, now be One for all".

Man, dude, your typos are worse than that guy's from last month!

Thanks for your letter! Please write again. Just write better.

So, after many months--or has it been years--there are going to be letters pages again? Cool! I am a big fan of Deadpool and was a fan of *Agent X* and miss it greatly. It was nice to see Alex again.

I do have one complaint, though: what happened to the humor? Deadpool doesn't make me laugh as much as he used to. Still cool with his wit and fighting but it just hasn't been the classic Wade humor. I understand it is hard to write funny--ness but Deadpool was always funnier in his own comic.

Cable as the straight man, though, makes it amusing and I do laugh at Cable sometimes. Their sparring against each other is good but the humor needs work.

Please keep this comic going. I am tired of always needing to look for new titles.

--Aaron Poltras, Canada

Wow.

Much to my surprise, these two hooligans are quickly becoming my favourite pair of characters in the Marvel Universe. Forget you, Wolverine--Willy spins great plots that keep me buying comic after comic. And I can't fathom how ANYBODY could continuously turn up dialogue that includes Deadpool. I think Fabian should go stand-up!

Matthew Carter, Canada

Matthew, meet Aaron. Now go kick his butt Ian Fabian, would ja? Then again, you're both Canadians (which is like half-French, right?), so you won't fight unless you're on a hockey rink or something? Can you at least smash a bottle of Moosehead over Aaron's skull? Does he have any idea how hard it is to be FUNNY every freakin' panel on every freakin' page of every freakin' issue?

Dear Insaniquzurium (Also known as Fabian, Patrick, and Nicole),

I started collecting *Cable* and *X-Force* in the early 1990's (when they were good, and hey, Fabian was writing then… coincidence? I think not…) and giggled my way through Wade's series. ADORED *Agent X*, and was highly skeptical about the launch of *C&DP*.

Yeah, so I'm kind of an idiot. It's a character flaw.

Basically, I've giggled my way through every issue, but #12 made me beyond giddy. We've got Alex, Domino, Wade being a jerk, Cable being Cable… Wade, and Nick Fury. All in-character, and being sarcastic b@#$%*s.

My joy cannot be expressed in words. So imagine, if you will, a giddy fangirl cutting out construction-paper hearts and writing your names on them.

You gave back me the characters that I love deeply, and missed terribly. Plus, y'all are freaking cute and unapologetic about it. ONLY GO AWAY WHEN YOU START TO SUCK!

Deep and abiding adoration, A.J.-U.S.A.

Y'know, A.J., you were really kinda boring me until I saw you were a chick. Then you became LETTER WRITER OF THE MONTH! I mean, a human with consummate venturing into a comic book store? That makes you more powerful than mighty Mojo!r at your typical store, doesn't it?

Now Fabian and Patrick are gonna have those hearts are being cut out for them, or for me n' Nate? Cause Fabian and Patrick are both married, so hopefully, they're for me n' Nate, 'cause, well, you wanna talk about swingin' some magic Uru hammers, baby…

"Uru" is a very funny word. Even funnier than "spatula".

EDITOR'S NOTE: At press time, A.J. has already revealed more about who those heart cutouts are REALLY for. Tune in next month to find out!

Surely, though, we have more than one female reader. Fellas: why aren't you buying extra copies for your lady friends? Don't you owe them that much? Remember: more sales equals less fear of cancellation. And ladies: send in your letters. -- NW

Next month starts "Enema of the State," in which I go looking for Cable who has been missing since X-Force #6. Okay, I lied to Chris. What's he gonna do, throw bangers and mash at me? Sigh. See you next month! I'm off to Kuala Lumpur… uhm… if Kuala Lumpur had been decimated by Apocalypse, that is…

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